



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

July 23, 2007

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20445

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The National Association of Neighborhoods (NAN) requests that our strong objections to the proposed merger of XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio, be registered in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) record for MB Docket No. 07-57. We believe this merger will do irrefutable harm to the availability of diverse radio programming, impair the survival of small market community oriented radio stations, and lacks significant benefits for consumers.

The National Association of Neighborhoods is one of America's oldest and largest grassroots multi-issue membership organizations. NAN's mission is to improve the quality of life in the nation's most important communities - its neighborhoods. Individually and collectively, NAN and its more than 2,500 member organizations strive to improve economic, social, environmental, health, and safety conditions in their neighborhoods.

Initially, satellite radio held the promise of reaching underserved and niche audiences. Yet, of the more than 300 channels available, between the two companies, currently, there is only one talk channel committed to African-American interests and issues (XM 169). Further, local radio stations throughout the country are programmed by radio station staff that live in the communities they serve, catering to the specific tastes and interests of their hometown neighborhoods. It is unlikely that the central programming of XM and Sirius will be as reflective of the needs and interests of local neighborhoods as the programming broadcast by local radio stations.

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A merger of XM and Sirius makes little sense from a consumer point of view. XM and Sirius use incompatible delivery systems, which means that XM radios cannot receive Sirius signals, and vice versa. With the limited amount of spectrum, a newly merged satellite radio service would need to drop channels to make room for its more popular programming. NAN is concerned that those channels catering to minorities and other niche markets would, most likely, be dropped.

NAN prides itself on its continuing mission to improve the quality of life in the nation's most important communities – its neighborhoods. An XM-Sirius merger would add little, if any, value to our neighborhoods. Subsequently, NAN requests that our objections be registered and further, urge the Commission to reject the proposed merger.

Sincerely,



Ricardo C. Byrd
Executive Director